

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Congress and the Legislatures of all 50 states to take action to promote and protect the benefits of agricultural biotechnology products.

NUGENT

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Congress and the Legislatures of all 50 states to take whatever action necessary to

Whereas, agricultural biotechnology is being used to increase the productivity of crops, thereby improving the quality of life, by developing new high-yielding crops that require fewer inputs such as pesticides and conserve natural resources in order to increase the food supply for the increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf lives, and to continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products;

Whereas, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, including those produced by biotechnology, be extensively reviewed for safety by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and meet the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act before they can be sold to consumers. In addition, any changes to a food product that alters the chemical, nutritional, or allergenicity of that product must be disclosed to the consumer of the product;

Whereas, foods produced through agricultural biotechnology are as safe as foods traditionally produced and the safety of agricultural biotechnology has been supported by numerous national and international health organizations, including the United Nations Food and



Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the National Research Council, the American Medical Association and the American Dietetic Association;

Whereas, Indiana farmers make decisions as to what technology to use on their farms and agricultural biotechnology is a choice being made by more and more Indiana farmers on increasing acreage;

Whereas, agricultural biotechnology is size neutral so both large and smaller acreage farmers can benefit from the improved weed or insect control provided by agricultural biotech seeds;

Whereas, America's farms currently export approximately 30 percent of their production, and these exports significantly improve the nation's balance of payments and are important to the well-being of the entire American economy;

Whereas, farm exports are essential to the financial health of agriculture and to the economic development of Indiana and other American states;

Whereas, the U.S. government should seek timely, science-based approvals of new technologies to allow U.S. farmers to fully utilize products or technologies fully approved by USDA, EPA and FDA that will help them grow their crops with higher yields and lower costs;

Whereas, strong U.S. intellectual property protection has been a cornerstone in allowing and encouraging new technologies, including several products of biotechnology, to be developed to benefit Indiana farmers and U.S. agriculture; and

Whereas, the lack of intellectual property protection in Argentina and other foreign countries has put U.S.



technology providers, seed suppliers and farmers at a competitive disadvantage: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the U.S.
2 government to aggressively work with the European Union and other
3 foreign countries to move the regulatory process forward in a timely
4 way, and without regulatory impediments, so that American farmers
5 can fully utilize the benefits of agricultural biotechnology products.

6 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the U.S.
7 government to aggressively work with Argentina and other foreign
8 counties to improve intellectual property protection for biotechnology
9 and other new technologies related to agriculture, so that U.S.
10 technology providers, seed suppliers and farmers can have a more level
11 playing field with respect to technology input costs.

12 SECTION 3. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the United
13 States Department of Agriculture, the United States Congress and the
14 Legislatures of all 50 states to take whatever actions are necessary to
15 ensure that American farmers continue to have access to these valuable
16 tools which will enhance out competitiveness and to take all measures
17 necessary to ensure free market access to new technologies, including
18 agricultural biotechnology, to help sustain American farmers'
19 leadership in global agriculture.

20 SECTION 4. That the Indiana General Assembly recommends that
21 the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and other public officials representing
22 agriculture be included as full and equal partners in the formulation of
23 United States policies affecting foreign trade and that the USDA
24 cooperate with state agricultural trade officials in a coordinated effort
25 to promote agricultural exports.

26 SECTION 5. That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to
27 transmit a copy of this Resolution to each member of the Indiana
28 Congressional delegation and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

